

## Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 OC-05 CCO-00 SY-05

OPR-02 SCCT-01 A-01 SCA-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 /096 W

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O R 231358Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7818

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USMISSION USUN NY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK

COMSIXTHFLT

CTF SIX ZERO

CTF SIX ONE

CTF SIX TWO

CTG SIX ZERO PT TWO

FOSIF ROTA SPAIN

FICEURLANT NORFOLK VA

DIA WASHDC

CIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR LE

SUBJECT: ROUND IV COMES FULL CIRCLE

1. MACABRE SENSE OF DEJA VU PERVADES LEBANON DEC 23 AS ZAHLE--SCENE OF OPENING SKIRMISHES OF ROUND IV LAST AUG-- ONCE MORE GRABS THE HEADLINES (SEPTTEL), ECLIPSING THIS TIME PRIMIN KARAME'S ONE-DAY TRIP TO DAMASCUS. KARAME, WHO MADE LAST-MINUTE ATTEMPT TO TRAVEL TO SYRIA BY CAR, WAS DELAYED WHEN HIS CAVALCADE WAS HALTED NEAR CHTAURA DEC 22 BY ARMED ELEMENTS. HE WISELY CONSENTED TO RETURN TO BEIRUT VIA ANTONOV AIRCRAFT OF THE SYRIAN AIR FORCE.

2. FEW DETAILS OF SYRIAN VISIT ARE YET AVAILABLE HERE, BUT SOME NEWSPAPERS SPEAK OF AGREEMENT BY SYRIAN AND LEBANESE GOVTS TO TAKE ACTIVE MEASURES TO STOP ARMS AND MUNITIONS SHIPMENTS TO FACTIONS INVOLVED IN CLASHES. FACT THAT THREE OFFICERS OF LEBANESE ARMY, INCLUDING BRIG MUSA KANAAN WERE INCLUDED IN ENTOURAGE HAS AROUSED SOME INTEREST, BUT WE ARE UNABLE TO DETERMINE AT THIS TIME WHAT MILITARY-HEAVY DELEGATION SIGNIFIES. POSSIBILITY THAT PRES FRANGIE MAY TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS TO MEET WITH PRES ASAD AND KING KHALED SURFACED THIS MORNING IN LOCAL PRESS. DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS OFFICE TELLS US THAT HE HAS HEARD THAT YASSIR 'ARAFAT WILL MAKE GATHERING A FOURSOME.

3. OTHERWISE, CONDITIONS IN COUNTRY REMAIN MUCH AS WE HAVE REPORTED OVER LAST WEEK. THERE IS PRIMARILY NIGHT-TIME FIRING IN OUTLYING SUBURBS WHILE AREAS CLOSE TO EMBASSY REMAIN RELATIVELY QUIET, WITH ONLY THE OCCASIONAL SHOT TO BREAK THE SILENCE. MANSOURIYAH WAS SCENE EVENING DEC 22 OF HEAVY FIGHTING AS PHALANGE AND PPS FORCES CONTENDED WITH ONE ANOTHER, BUT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT AREA IS QUIET MORNING DEC 23. FIGHTING IN THAT REGION HAS ALLEGEDLY DESTROYED ROAD INTO BEIRUT, WHERE MANY STREETS ARE AGAIN REPORTED UNSAFE. AS OF CONFIDENTIAL

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1230 HOURS LOCAL, THERE ARE SCATTERED REPORTS OF SHOOTING NEAR PARLIAMENT, IN RIAD AS SOLH SQUARE AND OTHER DOWNTOWN AREAS. POLITICALLY AS WELL, DEVELOPMENTS ARE PROCEEDING ALONG WELL-WORN AND ALL-TOO-FAMILIAR PATHS. THE PARLIAMENT, SLATED TO MEET THIS MORNING, FAILED TO PULL ITSELF TOGETHER (13 DEPUTIES SHOWED UP) AND WILL TRY AGAIN. THE CRUCIAL HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE HAS REPORTEDLY FOUNDERED ON A RESOLUTION OF THE ZHALE SITUATION AND IS

FACED WITH THE GRIM PROSPECT OF COLLAPSE; IT PROBABLY WON'T.  
THE MARONITE LEAGUE HAS DENIED LEFTIST ALLEGATIONS THAT  
IT HAS PROPOSED PARTITION OF THE COUNTRY, WHICH THEY IN FACT  
FAVOR. AND, THE KASLIK MONKS, IN THE PERSON OF CHARBEL  
KASSIS, HAVE ANNOUNCED THEIR PLAN FOR WIDESPREAD REFORMS  
IN THE LEBANESE SYSTEM (NO DETAILS AVAILABLE.) WHICH EVEN  
SYMPATHETIC CHRISTIAN OBSERVERS BELIEVE IS A PLOY TO  
ELICIT LEFTIST REJECTION AND OPEN THE WAY TO PARTITION OR  
CONFEDERATION.  
GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CIVIL DISORDERS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** CunninFX  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975BEIRUT15487  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Line Count:** 125  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** CunninFX  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ROUND IV COMES FULL CIRCLE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, PFOR, LE  
**To:** STATE AMMAN  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006